

STATE DEPARTMENT ASKS TRUMAN SUPPORT  
FOR A LAW TO PERMIT "FIRING" FOR SECURITY

WASHINGTON, April 3 (U.P.) -- The State Department has asked President Truman to seek permanent legislation authorizing it to discharge any employee without hearing when the "demands of national security" warrant, it was learned today.

The Atomic Energy Commission, it was understood, also wants such authority, which it already possessed under a temporary wartime statute by the War and Navy Departments.

Permanent authority of this kind would give the agencies wielding it a much more powerful weapon against Communists, Fascists, fellow-travelers and others deemed disloyal than any provided in President Truman's Executive Order of March 22, which provides that accused Government employees in most cases shall have hearings on their loyalty and otherwise be safeguarded against unfair dismissal.

The order, however, specifically exempts the War and Navy Departments from these provisions. It says that they "shall not be applicable to persons summarily removed under the provisions of Section 3" of Public Law 808.

Under the law, which the State Department wants made permanent and broadened to include it, the Secretaries of War and Navy may order dismissals in the interests of national security without hearings and without confronting the employee concerned with his accuser or with the evidence against him.

But Public Law 808, enacted in 1942, will expire six months after the war is officially ended unless Congress extends it.

The President's temporary commission on employee loyalty headed by A. Devitt Vanesch, recommended in its report to Mr. Truman that Public Law 808 be made permanent and be broadened to cover the Atomic Energy Commission and the State Department.

The State Department has now asked that the President pass these proposals on to Congress.

Under Public Law 808, persons summarily dismissed by the War or Navy Departments are entitled to appear within thirty days before a designated official and "be fully informed of the reasons" for their dismissal. They also may submit post-dismissal statements or affidavits in their defense. But they are not entitled to public trial or hearing before their accusers.